

Ans
cont.

substance and the atmospheric pressure, while the substances in the housing 1 will be discharged when the other end of the housing 1 is broken.

Responses to Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

The applicant respectfully notes that the ends of the channels are not sealed with the scores. Claims 1-8 claim that the housing is sealed on both ends. The "score" is formed at a predetermined distance from each end of the housing and is used to break open the housing and is not used to seal the housing.

Responses to Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103 based on Aiken

Aiken discloses an elongated tubular member of relatively small diameter fabricated of a transversely flexible material with rupturable sealing elements at both ends in the form of a thin closure disc or membrane. Aiken requires the user to manually squeeze the tube until one or both of the sealing elements ruptures.

Applicant's invention claims a multi-channel single tube sealed container and applicator that does not require a flexible material. In fact, applicant's invention requires the container to be made of a relatively rigid material such that a score can be formed on its outer circumference so that when it is bent, it will break open at the preformed score. If the material is flexible, the container may simply bend and not break open at the score. Applicant's invention cannot be ruptured by squeezing the housing because both ends are permanently sealed, unlike Aiken, which utilizes temporary seals with a thin closure disc or membrane that can and must be ruptured for application.